

G20 pledges to do ‘whatever it takes’ to support global economy

REUTERS, Brussels/Berlin/Washington

Financial leaders from the Group of 20 major economies on Wednesday underscored the urgent need to bring the spread of the coronavirus pandemic under control, and vowed to “do whatever it takes” to support the global economy and financial stability.

In a lengthy communique, G20 finance ministers and central bank governors also agreed in principle for the first time on a “Common Framework” to deal on a case-by-case basis with the rising number of low-income countries facing debt distress. The Paris Club of official creditors also backs the framework.

The move marks a significant step forward for China, which has become a major creditor to poor countries in recent years but had balked at the prospect of writing off any debts, according to sources familiar with the G20 deliberations.

G20 officials also agreed - as expected - to extend by six months the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) that freezes official bilateral debt payments until year-end, and said they would consider another six-month extension in April.

“The common framework is a historic achievement and a major breakthrough in the international debt agenda,” Mohammed al-Jadaan, finance minister of current G20 chair Saudi Arabia, told an online news conference during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. “It facilitates timely and orderly debt treatment for DSSI-eligible countries, with participation of broad creditors, including the private sector,” he said.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin urged G20 members to quickly endorse the framework, saying it would ease “debt write-downs when needed, help promote debt sustainability, and support

policy reforms” in low-income countries with high debt burdens.

Mnuchin, in a statement to the IMF’s steering committee, also urged countries not to withdraw fiscal and monetary policy measures prematurely given remaining uncertainty about the path of the pandemic and its economic fallout.

Fresh economic forecasts reveal a troubling divergence between advanced economies, which are starting to recover from

join in when asked by countries.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said only three eligible countries had even reached out to private creditors out of fear of marring their ability to borrow in the future.

She lauded China’s involvement, which has been criticized for not including the state-owned China Development Bank in its treatment of the DSSI request, and said Beijing had now acknowledged it

He said the urgency of the crisis - which threatens to push 150 million more people into extreme poverty by 2021 - required more forceful action on debt reduction for indebted poor states.

“The recession in advanced economies is less severe than had been feared, but in most developing economies, it has become a depression, especially for the poorest,” he said.

Malpass asked G20 leaders to back \$25 billion in additional aid for the International Development Association, a division of the World Bank that helps the poorest countries.

G20 finance officials urged the IMF and the Bank, and other multilateral development banks, to keep looking for options to help struggling countries, but failed to back a broader issuance of new Special Drawing Rights, the IMF’s currency, which would be akin to a central bank printing money.

The United States, the IMF’s largest shareholder, has firmly opposed such a move, which is widely supported elsewhere.

There was also no mention of climate change in the communique, after the United States once again blocked its inclusion, sources familiar with the talks said.

Georgieva said green investments could add millions of jobs, and called for more international cooperation on a vaccine for COVID-19, noting that early progress could boost global income by \$9 trillion by 2025. The United States has refused to support the global COVAX scheme working to distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

“Nine months into the pandemic, we are still struggling with the darkness of a crisis that has taken more than a million lives, and driven the economy into reverse, causing sharply higher unemployment, rising poverty, and the risk of ‘a lost generation’ in low-income countries,” she said.



REUTERS/FILE

Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed al-Jadaan wears a protective mask as he attends a virtual meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

the pandemic and widespread lockdowns, and developing countries and emerging market economies, which face more dire straits and the growing risk of defaulting on their debts.

The new debt restructuring framework will be finalized at an extraordinary meeting before a G20 leaders summit next month, according to the communique issued after a virtual meeting. An earlier draft had the ministers adopting the framework, but officials were unable to reach agreement on that step this week.

Officials again expressed disappointment about the continued absence of private-sector participation in the moratorium, and urged commercial lenders to

needed to “mature domestically” in how it handled coordination of its own lenders.

G20 finance officials said the overall global economic outlook was less negative, with economic activity picking up in some areas. But they said the recovery was “uneven, highly uncertain and subject to elevated downside risks.”

They pledged to continue to address the disproportionate impact the crisis is having on women, young people and other vulnerable segments of society.

World Bank President Malpass told G20 officials it was critical to look beyond the DSSI initiative, which only defers payments but doesn’t reduce them, citing a rising risk of “disorderly defaults.”

US offers tariff truce if Airbus repays billions in aid

REUTERS, Paris/Washington/Brussels

The United States has offered to settle a long-running aircraft subsidy dispute with the European Union and remove tariffs on wine, whisky and other products if Airbus AIR.PA repays billions of dollars in aid to European governments, several sources close to the matter told Reuters.

The offer was made by US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer days before the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) release on Tuesday of a report authorising Brussels to slap counter-tariffs on US goods over subsidies to planemaker Boeing, the sources said.

Lighthizer’s proposal, however, is unlikely to win support from the EU, which appears set to ask the WTO at an Oct. 26 meeting to endorse \$4 billion in EU tariffs on US goods. The imposition of \$7.5 billion of US tariffs over Airbus subsidies has already started to hit European goods.

The USTR’s office and the European Commission, the EU’s executive body, did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

The loans stand at the centre of a 16-year-old dispute that has bedevilled trade relations and spread to industries from luxury goods to agriculture as the two sides seek to punish aircraft subsidies with tariffs.

The WTO has ruled that European government loans to Airbus were unfairly subsidised through low interest rates while Boeing also received unfair support from tax breaks.

Under the new US offer, interest rates on past loans to support Airbus development programmes would be reset to a level that assumed that only as few as half of the projects would succeed, two of the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

That would assume a higher risk than Airbus partner nations - Britain, France, Germany and Spain - have traditionally priced into the loans and reflects a speculative type of investment.

Such repricing could cost Airbus up to \$10 billion, seen as unacceptable to the EU at a time when aircraft manufacturers have been seeking funds to survive the coronavirus crisis.

One European source called the proposal “insulting” and said it could accelerate the tariff war. A US source, meanwhile, said Lighthizer was “serious” about getting Airbus to hand back aid.

Details of the bid emerged after the US said on Tuesday that it was waiting for an EU response to an unspecified offer in the dispute. EU officials have said they, too, made an offer this year without receiving



REUTERS/FILE

An Airbus A380, the world’s largest jetliner, flies over Boeing flags as it lands after a flying display during the 51st Paris Air Show at Le Bourget airport near Paris.

a US response.

Analysts say both sides are trying to strengthen their positions ahead of any future negotiations. Both sides have urged negotiations while accusing the other of refusing to engage seriously.

Currently Airbus repays government loans only when its sales exceed a certain threshold, while loans for weak-selling planes such as the A380 superjumbo can be waived partly or fully.

Airbus says the disputed loan system favours taxpayers because loan repayments on successful planes such as the A320 far outweigh amounts written off on jets that failed to reach sales targets.

The United States argues that cheap loans have a lasting benefit to Airbus by leaving billions on its books, which it can use to develop jets and offer lower prices than otherwise possible.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Goalanda, Rajbari
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8229.000.14.016.19-579

Dated: 13.10.2020

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-21

Reference No:
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following scheme noted against tender ID.

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
484728	e-Tender/NBIDGPS/W1.06371	Construction of Bahadurpur GPS (Ujanchar UP) under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari.	09.11.2020 13.00pm	10.11.2020 12.30pm
499443	e-Tender/UP/Goal/Raj/2019-20/01	Repair & Maint. of Coto Vakia UP Bhaban under Goalanda Upazila, Dist-Rajbari.		
499444	e-Tender/EUCPW-75	Const. of Boundary Wall with Main Gate of Daulatdia Ghat GPS under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari.		

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Bazlur Rahaman Khan
Upazila Engineer
Goalanda, Rajbari
Phone: 06423-56143
Email: ue.goalanda@lged.gov.bd

GD-1641



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গাম শহরের উন্নতি

Stepped up Chinese scrutiny raises investment risk of ‘Beast’ Ant

REUTERS, Beijing/Hong Kong

As Ant Group was working in August towards its giant IPO, at least two smaller Chinese banks with existing ties to the fintech firm decided to stop sourcing new consumer loans from it, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Their moves came after regulators scrutinised banks that used Ant’s technology platform excessively for underwriting consumer loans at a time when concerns about defaults and lenders’ asset quality grew in a pandemic-hit economy, said the people.

The sharper regulatory focus over Ant’s cash cow and rapidly growing consumer lending business to curb financial sector risk has emerged as a key concern for potential investors ahead of its likely \$35 billion float, the world’s largest.

For its lending business, Ant originates demand from retail consumers and small businesses and passes that on to about 100 banks for underwriting, earning fees from the lenders and putting its own balance sheet at minimum risk. Ant’s consumer lending balance was 1.7 trillion yuan (\$254 billion) as of end-June this year, or 21 per cent of all short-term consumer loans issued by Chinese deposit-taking financial institutions.

“The ‘catch me if you can’ type of game between regulators and Ant will always be there,” said Dong Ximiao, chief analyst at the Zhongguancun Internet Finance Institute, a think tank backed by Beijing’s Haidian district



REUTERS/FILE

Alipay logo is pictured at the Shanghai office of Alipay, owned by Ant Group which is an affiliate of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, in Shanghai, China.

government. “But the trend of tight regulations won’t go backwards for sure,” Dong said. “Regulators are now well aware of how harmful it would be to set free a beast like Ant.”

With its unique business model and the absence of peers in China and elsewhere, analysts say Ant has mainly thrived as a technology platform away from banking sector’s regulations despite its bouquet of financial offerings.

Even in the run up to the IPO the company tried to burnish its tech credentials - it changed its name to Ant Group from Ant Financial - and

is pushing brokerages to get tech analysts to cover the firm’ two separate sources said.

However, regulators are becoming increasingly worried about banks’ inadequate risk controls on the consumer loans business and their excessive reliance on external tech platforms such as Ant to tap customers.

This year, regulators and the top court have unveiled new rules, including putting a cap on interest rates that tech platforms can charge for their own lending, to standardise practices and protect bank balance sheets. The decision of two smaller banks to stop bringing in new consumer loan business via Ant came after the PBOC kicked off a survey in July to investigate the bad loan ratio of banks’ such co-lending business, said the people.

The people, who received the PBOC guidance and have direct knowledge of the banks’ actions, declined to be named and didn’t want the lenders’ names to be mentioned as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Ant, an affiliate of e-commerce giant Alibaba, said the information about the action taken by the two smaller banks was “unsubstantiated” and that in the past two months the company had tied up with more banking partners.

“Our partner banks manage risk independently and together, we have been facilitating consumer loans with risk management performance and achieved the delinquency rate as low as 2.15 per cent as of July 31, 2020, much lower than industry average,” it said.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Rangamati
Phone: 0351-63391
E-mail: seranga@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 1000,

Date: 14/10/2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that e-Tenders are invited and published on 14/10/2020 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd

Sl.	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of work	Date & time
01	504035	e-GP/SE/Ranga/PMP/Bridge/Ranga/01/2020-2021	Construction of 22.680m (1x21.340m) long RCC Girder Bridge at 17th(p) km of (Ch. 16km+969.00m) of Rangamati (Ghagra)-Chandraghona-Bangalhalia-Bandarban Road (R-161) under Road Division Rangamati during the year 2020-2021.	Last selling: 15.11.2020, 17.00 Closing: 16.11.2020, 11.30

Signed by
Mohammad Jahangir Alam
ID No. 601929
Superintending Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Circle, Rangamati

GD-1647



India will not mandate secondary listings for firms joining overseas markets

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has decided not to mandate secondary listings for domestic firms that float their shares on a foreign stock exchange as the government prepares a new policy, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

India is close to drawing up rules for companies to float overseas without having to first list shares at home, as a way to help startups attain higher valuations and access capital more easily.

But concerns grew after officials privately told global investors and companies in meetings they were considering mandating a secondary listing for Indian firms on domestic exchanges, as a way of ensuring investors and markets prospered, Reuters has reported.

Asked about the proposal, a top government official directly involved in the discussion said there would be no mandatory requirement of a secondary listing, however.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sunamganj Sadar, Sunamganj
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.9089.000.07.063.20-1059

Date: 15-10-2020

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 02/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)	Tender ID
1	e-Tender/NBIDGPS/SUN/SUN/2019-2020/W1-06238	Construction of classroom of Janigaon Government Primary School.	12-Nov-2020 15:00	15-Nov-2020 13:00	502042
2	e-Tender/PEDP4/SUN/SUN/2020-21/W2.02464	Construction of additional classroom Niyamat Pur GPS under PEDP4.	05-Nov-2020 15:30	08-Nov-2020 13:00	497503
3	e-Tender/PEDP4/SUN/SUN/2020-21/W2.02411	Construction of additional classroom Mollik Pur GPS under PEDP4	05-Nov-2020 15:30	08-Nov-2020 13:00	496837

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to time specified online notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

-Sd-
Anwar Hussain
Upazila Engineer
Sunamganj Sadar, Sunamganj
Tel: 01708161683
E-mail: ue.sunamganj-s@lged.gov.bd

GD-1643

